

THE COMMITTEE ON

WAYS & MEANS



AUGUST RESOURCE PACKET
2018



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TAX CUTS & JOBS ACT

The *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act* was the **biggest step in 31 years to overhaul our tax system.**

We listened to our workers, job creators, and policy makers and developed a plan to provide **tax relief to middle-income families**, create an **environment for good-paying jobs to grow**, and **make America the best place in the world to start or expand a business.**

The *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act* was designed to deliver tax relief to middle-income families and grow the U.S economy — we're accomplishing both. And the good news is **the best is yet to come for America.**

THE ECONOMY

Our new tax code is built to grow our economy:

- A typical family of four earning \$75,000 will see **a tax cut of more than \$2,000.**
- CBO estimates that in the next 10 years the *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act* will create **900,000** jobs, raise wages by **\$1.2 trillion**, create **\$1.7 trillion** in GDP, and boost investment in the U.S. by **\$600 billion.**
- **The economic outlook for America has dramatically improved.** Economic growth surged to a **4.1%** pace in the second quarter of this year, putting the economy **on track for 3%+ growth for the year** as a whole – a dramatic departure from the Obama-era 2% growth status quo.
- **Investment growth is beating all expectations** – growing 6.7% in the second quarter, nearly double the expectation.

POSITIVE OUTLOOK

Main Street is humming again:

- **Consumer confidence** is at its highest level since 2000.
- **Small business optimism** in the economy is near all-time highs.
- **The share of all small businesses that are expanding, hiring, and raising wages is at all-time highs.**

JOBS, JOBS, JOBS

There are **more job opportunities for Americans** because businesses are investing in their workers and expanding their operations again:

- **The economy has added nearly 1.3 million jobs** since tax reform was passed – over 215,000 per month – smashing the projection of 166,000 jobs per month.
- **America is getting back to work.** Unemployment claims are at their lowest since the 1960s.
- **Paychecks are getting bigger.** Wages are growing at their fastest pace since 2008.



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[CLICK FOR FULL TCJA TOOLKIT](#)

BECAUSE OF TAX REFORM...

**87
MILLION**
customers will see
lower utility bills
this year

**OVER
\$100 BILLION**
of tax cuts will go
to families making
under \$200,000

**Nearly
1.3 MILLION
jobs** have been
created
so far

**OVER
6 MILLION**
American workers have
received **bonuses or
increased retirement
contributions**

Americans for Tax Reform

The percentage
of small businesses
seeing profit growth
is at the highest in the
45-year
history of NFIB's
survey

NFIB
April 2018 Survey

90%
of taxpayers can
now take the
standard deduction,
a **64%**
reduction in
itemization

91%
of middle-income
taxpayers will see a
tax cut

Tax Policy Center

58%
of small businesses
cite tax reform as a
“game-changer”

Bank of America
small business owner report

Private-sector
wages have
had their biggest
gain since
2008

Bloomberg



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TAX REFORM 2.0

- The *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act* **has changed the trajectory of the economy for the better.** It is succeeding – **creating a booming economy** with more jobs, higher paychecks, and historic Main Street optimism, and making sure our American workers can compete and win anywhere in the world.
- Tax Reform 2.0 is about **locking in these tax cuts for middle-class families** and small businesses, and **changing the culture in Washington** so that America never again falls behind its global competitors.
- Tax Reform 2.0 is a new commitment to **improve the tax code each and every year for American families and local businesses** – like upgrading the apps on your phone. Just as America’s most successful businesses begin each day asking “how do we become more competitive, more innovative, and better,” each year Congress will examine the tax code and take action to ensure our tax code continues to be competitive, innovative, and always better.
- **Today we have one of the most competitive tax codes on the planet – let’s keep it that way.**

We are proposing to build on the growing successes of the *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act* in **three main ways:**

- **Protecting Middle-Class and Small Business Tax Cuts** - We will **provide certainty for our families, workers, and Main Street small businesses** while unleashing even more economic growth in America for the long run.
- **Promoting Family Savings** - Thanks to the *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act*, **businesses and families now have more money in their pockets.** It is the perfect time to help local businesses provide retirement plans to their workers, and help families start saving earlier and save more throughout their lives. Tax Reform 2.0 contains a range of proposals to achieve this.
- **Spurring New Business Innovation** - Start-up businesses are outsized contributors to innovation and productivity as well as job creation. As part of an annual focus on encouraging innovation, Tax Reform 2.0 will **help brand-new businesses write off more of their initial start-up costs, and remove barriers to growth.**

[**CLICK FOR FULL OUTLINE**](#)



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OPIOID LEGISLATION

The opioid crisis affects every community. Working on a bipartisan basis, we are taking a major step to address this crisis. We know that to ultimately solve the opioid crisis, it is going to take years of working together. In June, the House passed over 70 bills to combat the opioid crisis including seven from Ways and Means:

Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment (SUPPORT) for Patients and Communities Act, H.R. 6

Intro'd by Reps. Brady (R-TX), Walden (R-OR), Neal (D-MA), and Pallone (D-NJ)

- Improves prevention and public health efforts, enhances treatment and recovery programs, provides communities more tools, and bolsters our efforts to fight deadly illicit synthetic drugs like fentanyl.

Preventing Addiction for Susceptible Seniors (PASS) Act, H.R. 5773

Intro'd by Reps. Roskam (R-IL) and Sewell (D-AL)

- Improves program integrity requirements surrounding prescribing and health plan communication, and expands services to assist patients that have been prescribed opioids.

Providing Reliable Options for Patients and Educational Resources (PROPER) Act, H.R. 5775

Intro'd by Reps. Paulsen (R-MN) and Kind (D-WI)

- Directs CMS to revise pain-related questions on hospital surveys and improves efforts to educate patients and insurers on the negative effects of opioids and on proper disposal methods of controlled substances.

Combating Opioid Abuse for Care in Hospitals (COACH) Act, H.R. 5774

Intro'd by Reps. Curbelo (R-FL) and DelBene (D-WA)

- Educates providers and beneficiaries on reducing reliance on opioids and realigns incentives to expand use of high quality, non-opioid alternatives to pain management.

Dr. Todd Graham Pain Management, Treatment, and Recovery Act, H.R. 6110

Intro'd by Reps. Walorski (R-IN) and Chu (D-CA)

- Addresses Medicare payment incentives to prescribe opioids, expands access to non-opioid alternatives and substance use disorder treatment including in underserved and rural areas, deploys resources and best practices to reduce opioid use.

Expanding Oversight of Opioid Prescribing and Payment Act, H.R. 5723

Intro'd by Reps. Tenney (R-NY), DelBene (D-WA), and McKinley (R-WV)

- Examines incentives for prescribing of opioids and incentivizes prescribing non-opioid alternatives under Medicare hospital payment as well as tracking and monitoring opioid use through Medicare claims.

Stop Excessive Narcotics in our Retirement Communities Protection Act, H.R. 5676

Intro'd by Reps. MacArthur (R-NJ), Tonko (D-NY), Schweikert (R-AZ), Blumenauer (D-OR), Collins (R-NY), and Kuster (D-NH)

- Extends the authority of Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug Plans to suspend potentially fraudulent payments – in the same manner already available under Medicare fee-for-service today.



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JOBS AND OPPORTUNITY

The “jobs gap” is the difference between employers’ demand for workers and the number of individuals in the workforce.

Our new tax code is creating demand for workers all across the country. With a **booming economy that has more jobs than workers**, now is the perfect time for those stuck on the sidelines to find work and pull themselves out of poverty.

All Americans deserve a chance to accomplish their hopes and dreams – but one key welfare program, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), isn’t getting the job done. **Many on the program are not being engaged in work** or work preparation and dollars intended for the purpose are being spent elsewhere.

That’s why Republicans have introduced the **JOBS for Success Act** and renamed the TANF program to ensure the focus is clearly on families preparing, finding, and keeping jobs. Below are key reforms included in the JOBS for Success Act that will help more families move from poverty to prosperity.

KEY REFORMS

The JOBS for Success Act:

- **Expects universal engagement and case management** for work or work preparation activities.
- **Allows states to fund important work-related activities**, including on-the-job training and apprenticeships.
- **Rejects the idea of “lost causes”** or families that are “too difficult” to engage. Case management services will be used to provide a tailored plan to guide each family on their way to entering and remaining in the workforce. No family will be left behind.
- **Helps families under 200% of poverty** by requiring states to spend a minimum level of funding on transportation and other work support services to help more of them prepare for and keep employment.
- **Recognizes the strain child care places on working families** and significantly increases the amount of federal funds available to support child care to more than \$16.6 billion annually.
- **Strengthens accountability** by measuring real results and holding states accountable for those results. States will be measured on the caseload that gets and keeps a job, their earnings, and for young adults, high school or GED completion.
- **Improves transparency by creating a dashboard** to track state progress on achieving these results.



IRS REDESIGN

We took the biggest and boldest step in 20 years to redesign the IRS into a place with a singular mission: “Taxpayer First.” Our bill puts an emphasis on customer service:

- Requires the IRS to submit to Congress plans to restructure the agency to improve efficiency, enhance cyber security, and better serve taxpayers
- Helps ensure that the IRS is living up to its “quality service” mission and will **hold the agency accountable** if it fails to meet these standards
- Encourages the use of **common-sense customer service features**, like a call-back option

IRS technology is so outdated that some systems date to the 1960s. Our bill modernizes the IRS so they can be more efficient and taxpayer-friendly:

- Ensures **victims of identity theft have one point of contact** who can help them until their problem is fixed
- **Enhances the agency’s ability to combat cybercrimes** by strengthening the IRS’ partnership with states and cyber security experts
- Ensures certain **IRS data is kept securely** in a searchable, electronic format

We are overhauling the IRS’ enforcement tools so families and businesses can’t have property seized without fair notice. Our bill:

- Prevents outrageous enforcement abuse by **limiting the IRS’ ability to unfairly seize and sell taxpayer property** on the same day

We are shifting the burden of proof back onto the IRS when examining taxpayers. Our bill:

- Establishes the Independent Office of Appeals in the IRS to **ensure that taxpayers receive a fair and impartial review** of disputes they have with the IRS
- Requires that the IRS **provide you your own case file** prior to any review of your dispute with the agency

“We’re laying out the guardrails and architecture of what a new IRS would look like and requiring them to bring back the restructuring plan.”

CHAIRMAN KEVIN BRADY



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RESOURCES & TOOLKITS

LINKS

TAX [TCJA Communications Toolkit](#)

TAX [Tax Reform Hearing Series Toolkit](#)

TAX [False Claims on Tax Reform](#)

TAX [Tax Reform 2.0 Listening Session Framework](#)

TAX [TAX FACTS: Making Individual Tax Cuts Permanent](#)

TAX [TAX FACTS: 95% of Manufacturers Optimistic About Future](#)

TAX [TAX FACTS: Families Win with GOP Tax Cuts](#)

TAX [TAX FACTS: Jobs, Jobs, Jobs](#)

TAX [TAX FACTS: Housing Market Benefiting](#)

TAX [TAX FACTS: Real Progress Report on the Economy](#)

TAX [TAX FACTS: Stock Buybacks and Investment](#)

TAX [TAX FACTS: Helping Vulnerable Communities Prosper](#)

TAX [FACT CHECK: Tax Reform Harms Churches](#)

HEALTH [Common-Sense Medicare Reforms](#)

HEALTH [Health Savings Accounts Bills](#)

HEALTH [Actions to Reduce Drug Costs](#)

HR [Jobs & Opportunity Toolkit](#)

HR [Family First Act One-Pager](#)

OVERSIGHT [IRS REDESIGN TOOLKIT](#)

TRADE [STOP Act One-Pager](#)

TRADE [W&M Trade Actions 2018](#)



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